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Song of a Naturalist

By FRANK GANDER

My San Diego County is a wonderful place in which to live and work. In it there are mountains for me to climb, deserts to explore, beaches, salt marshes, grassy valleys, chaparral-covered hillsides, groves of liveoaks, forests of pine, fir, and spruce, and a whole host of other types of interesting out-door places. Perhaps you, too, have found all of this in San Diego County; perhaps your impressions of our County are even richer in some ways than my own—yet I am sure that my County, the San Diego County of a naturalist, has many interesting features overlooked by most people. It is some of these natural history aspects that I wish to picture for you.

If we start at the western margin of the County where the mightiest of oceans tumbles waves upon sandy beaches, booms hollowly in the caves of ocean bluffs, and threads long fingers through the waving grasses of sloughs and estuaries, and if we turn our steps away from the sea and travel eastward, we find our path leading higher and higher. We pass peaks that rise to over 6,000 feet in altitude, and descending their eastern slopes, come to an arid, rugged, and colorful land that we call "The Desert." Finally, at the extreme northeastern corner of the County we get back to sea-level once more . . . but there is no ocean there.

Such a varied topography provides many different types of plant habitats, and the area is correspondingly rich in the number of plant species which occur within its boundaries. Variety in plant life makes possible an equal diversity in the animal forms of the region. Traveling from ocean to desert in this County, we pass through almost as great changes in the plant and animal life as one does in traveling from Florida to Maine on the Atlantic seaboard.

Let us look more closely at some of the plant and animal communities through which we pass on such a jaunt. Dominant over all is the chaparral or brush-land type which spreads for mile after colorful mile over our hills and mesas. Chief among the plants composing it stands the chamise or greasewood. Great stretches of our County are covered by it in almost pure stands, and in late May and June, the tiny dark green leaves are hidden under billowing masses of small creamy-white flowers. Then, the plant is at its loveliest.

Other shrubs of the chaparral also give us lovely flowers. The wild lilacs of many kinds color canyon sides and hill slopes from December to May. Their ethereal flowers have made them justly famous, and every year, more and more of these fine shrubs are being planted in our California gardens. Finest of all for garden use is the Lakeside Lilac, which is the wild occurs only in that part of our County lying between Mussey Grade and Harbison Canyon. One other wild lilac, too, is confined entirely to our County, a little prostrate blue one that is found scatteringly from Cuyamaca Lake to Pine Hills and Mesa Grande. I have it growing in my yard, and it blooms for me fully six weeks earlier than it does in its mountain home.

In the mountains, too, are several kinds of manzanitas — shrubs and small trees with picturesque twisted trunks covered with smooth red-brown bark. Their flowers are dainty chalices, each one a delicately tinted pearl, sometimes in a setting of coral-red bracts and pedicels. In late spring berries hang thick on the branches like little green apples, thus giving the plant its pretty Spanish name. A close relative of these shrubs is the Summer Holly or Chaparral Arbutus which in August spreads the red fire of its berries through coastal canyons and on the slopes of San Miguel.

While the chaparral dominates the vegetative growth of our County, there are other very impressive types of plants. Few trees are more magnificent than the great sugar pines on the high slopes of Cuyamaca Peak, while the Incense Cedars, White Firs, and Gold-Cup Oaks of Palomar are broad of bole and of lordly height. Big-cone Spruces gather in sheltered canyons near Julian and Mesa Grande; Pinyon Pines fight tenaciously for life on arid desert peaks, and Elephant Trees grow among the sun-burned boulders on the slopes below. If you have not met these trees, then you have yet to become acquainted with

some of the noblest citizens of our County.

Equally interesting with the trees and shrubs are the lesser plants—the wild flowers and ferns, the half-shrubby sages, buckwheats, etc. What a host of these we find, golden daisies sprinkling sunshine in the open fields, lupines spreading blue carpets on grassy slopes, tiger lilies that tower to ten feet or so in hidden canyons among the hills, ferns growing in every sheltered nook, thousands of graceful living entities for you to count as friends.

When you are getting acquainted with our native plants, don't stop with seeing and feeling them; give your nose a treat, smell them, too. Not only are many of the wild flowers delightfully fragrant, but the chaparral is redolent with pungent and spicy aromas. The true sages, the salvias, are all pleasantly odorous, but supreme among them is the blue-flowered Cleveland Sage. Its honeyed sweetness so pervades the air of its neighborhood that cars moving swiftly along the highways are perfumed with its fragrance. The California Laurel or Sweet Bay is equally aromatic where it grows on desert slopes of the Laguna Mountains. Redshank, Creosote Bush, *Hymenoclea,* Coast Spice Bush, all are pleasantly tangy. Sugar Berry has the odor of ripe apples, and pinyons give from their tiny needles an incense like the breath of a great pine forest. Laurel Sumac, Desert Lavender, Incense Cedar, how my nose tingles as I name them over!

Not content with revelling in the pungent perfume of woodland and chaparral, I have brought many of these plants home with me, and now I have a garden of memories—a yard bathed in wildwood fragrances with which many happy remembrances are associated. How easy to forget the hum-drum of life when the wilderness blooms at my door.

This green world of which I write is not the only wild life of our County worthy of interest. Where plants grow, there animals are found— insects and other little creepy things, furry rabbits, squirrels, and such, and birds of song and bright colors. How much they add to the out-of-doors with their great activity and excited voices! A milkweed bejewelled with multi-colored beetles becomes a treasure trove, and a dew-spangled web of a spider is one of the wonders of the world. The track of a coyote or bob-cat in a trash-littered city canyon converts it into a wild place, and romance is given a voice when a mockingbird sings in the moonlight.

When compared with plants, how fast animals live—rushing hither and yon in search of food or mates, flaunting their lives before our eyes, primal and unabashed. The fruitfulness of nature is epitomized in the fecund ground squirrels which court and mate, rear young and die, along every highway.

If you would learn how marvellously prolific nature is, mark off some half acre or so of ground on canyon-side, mesa, foothill, or mountain, visit it once each week throughout the year and learn the name of every living thing which you observe thereon. Species would rise into dominance and disappear again; thousands of individuals would pass in review before you, some of them living their whole lives through growth, maturity, and old age to decay in the brief span of one year. Then you would gain a vastly richer, fuller knowledge of your natural environment.

TO A FERN

What is so lovely
As a fern
Diamond studded
In the dawn
Fronds outstretched
To catch the beams of sun
And then thru fairy fingers
Let them fall
In delicate tracery
Upon the forest floor.
At noonday heat
She bends to refresh
In the spray
Of the mountain stream
And shelter all the
Little people of the woods.
Then at the eventide
Exhales the fragrance
Gathered from a day
Perfect in service
To her creator.

Byrd Carter.

THIS IS IT

It is with some hesitation and misgiving that I interfere with the tempo of the times. To change suddenly from the sublime to the commonplace takes more artistry in writing than I command. Yet the ordinary, workaday aspect of the subject of flowers and the very purpose of these sheets calls for a getting back to fundamentals—dirt gardening. The day of all days is here for an avocation to measure up to its uses. And speaking of dirt, do you know why you are here? Some of you will know. Others will not have analyzed the urge and resulting satisfaction that come of working with Nature—gardens—and in the present case, sharing the results with your neighbors and the community. It is a race instinct to get one's hands into the dirt. Doubtless, ages past when the first nomadic tribe hesitated longer in one spot than usual and scratched the ground with a stick—there civilization began and there the race first started sowing its wild oats.

Look at the businessman of today, so vital to the war effort; these unfortunate people, the banker, the captains of industry who work so hard and under such artificial conditions. Look at them in their swivel chairs on plush rugs as they gaze out on brick walls, piles of coke and lines of guns ever-increasing. What are they thinking about: whereof do they dream for release. This one sees a herd of cattle spread over a green pasture—his herd that will be when he is through with all this. That one dreams of the old swimming hole with mud oozing up between his toes and wonders how his roses have come along since morning. And the next may be you, and you are giving a thought in the interest of posies planted out where your neighbor and your neighbor's neighbor down the street may enjoy them with you.

All this has an important place in the well-rounded scheme for today's morale. It points to some of the finer instincts and attributes that have developed with the race, an appreciation of the aesthetic that leads on until it becomes a spiritual uplift which in turn is bound to have its profound effect on all our war activities and thoughts. Don't forget.

Roland Hoyt.

RENAISSANCE

Local gardeners who read with interest Samuel B. Pettingill's plea for a sensible handling of the rubber situation in the last issue of the California Garden, know now that the Government has belatedly taken up the case for guayule. It appears to be making up for lost time.

Here is a vast new industry and a crop for the arid Southwest that staggers the imagination . . . what is corn to Iowa and cotton to the South. Silas B. Osborn and Walter Bellon have seen it coming. They must have known it was inevitable for they studied possibilities for years, with countless hours spent in that laboratory which is Nature . . . the hills where these rubber-producing plants grow.

Some two years in the background of the current discussion Mr. Osborn advised with a group promoting guayule production. Anticipated government money, however, did not materialize and that much time has been lost. Malay labor and Dutch capitalists were preferred over American farmers and California sunshine in the name of a balanced exchange . . . and now the Japs.

All present sources are in the flux of experimentation. Guayule is no exception, yet has the advantage of twenty or thirty years in research and the development of special machinery for processing. A probable advantage over cryptostegia and other plants discussed lies in the harvest of rubber as rubber and not as a latex, thus reducing operations. The material develops in the stems, presumably as an aid in drouth, which would seem to indicate these dry barren soils of Southern California as receptive.

We hope and trust the government will probe deeply in proving its worth or unworth. In the last analysis it is logical that our rubber of the future be a matter of American production for self-containment. Whether from the topsoil or the subsoil, let us make the most of it. R. S. H.

Humming birds build the most delicate and beautiful nests of any birds known. The most remarkable nests are those of the American orioles, and the weaver birds of Africa and the East Indies.

Gardens with Housing

By ALICE M. CLARK

Let's take a look at that thriving Garden Club out at the Bayview Terrace Housing Project that spreads out over the site of our beloved Miss Session's Nursery. What could be more fitting than that an enthusiastic group of fifty people should gather there on two mornings a month to learn the garden ways of this new land where the hand of Mars has lead them?

I suspect that the sure touch of our "Max" Matousek was responsible for the start of this fine organization. Still carrying on in the same situation, though in a different capacity, he, through long association with our "first garden lady," knows intuitively what she would have liked to see done, and lo! it is begun. I can picture her emphatic nod of approvel over the excellent programs the understanding chairman, Mrs. Diamond, has provided in the few months of the club's existence. I know she would especially commend this leader's aim to make these strangers a part of us as quickly as possible by telling them about our native plants and birds and helping them to "get their roots down" more rapidly in this blessed ground. This might be done by distributing bulbs and cuttings, via Miss Sessions favorite number drawings, together with explicit directions for their culture. Could we not all share this fine spirit of service by being alert to the garden needs of our neighborhood or by saving our surplus to enrich this or a similar project? Who knows but that the dream of K.O.S. for a Color Park in Pacific Beach may be realized through the very disruption we once deplored. Now that the site has been laid out, the people are left free to express their own desires for horticultural beauty and, with the spirit that hovers over that land, we can expect splendid results.

Once in a while we see plants, like people, that can adapt themselves to any situation. Such are those versatile bedding begonias, introduced 50 years ago, but only now coming to their own, in gorgeous masses of bloom and foliage wherever they are raised. They seem to be truly foolproof and live on and on with a little cutting back now and then. Did you ever try sowing some of the seed? A tiny pinch, and you have enough plants for a Block Project.

Which reminds me, why don't we get together on raising seedlings in our neighborhood groups? Some seeds may be scarce or perhaps the labor or tire shortage will prevent our acquiring the familiar flats of plants we have been accustomed to. If we would each plant enough of the specialties which through some quirk of fate, whether of green thumb or scientific knowledge, we have the best luck with, we would be able to share, exchange or sell for a few extra war stamps all of our surplus. In California it seems as though it is time to plant our winter seeds of cinerarias, pansies, schizanthus, stock, snapdragon and a host of other annuals before we have had any summer. Each year I let the correct planting time go by, but this one is *different* and I warn you and myself too, to watch the planting charts or be very, very sorry.

The shortage of time and tires keeps me from peeking at the choice compositions the garden enthusiasts of San Diego are making this season. Why don't each of you look through your particular chink in the wall and tell me some of the special views you have enjoyed, so we can all share them?

Don't forget to take home the treasure trove of garden exchange magazines that await you on our library shelves, even though they cannot be reviewed here.

That saucy mocking-bird has driven me out of my cranny. Be sure and tell me what he sees through your "chink in the wall."

ONCE TROPICAL

Scientists declared that bones of the dinosaur recently discovered near Scoresby sound prove that Greenland had a tropical climate 10,000,000 years ago.

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!

FROM "BRITAIN TODAY"

"Friendship presupposes a considerable degree of sympathy. It does not mean that the two parties to it hold the same views, but it does mean that each wants to know as much as possible about the other, to understand his ideas, even if he does not always share them, to be initiated into the secret of his tastes and admirations. Friendship implies intellectual intercourse. Each side wants to know what the other has to tell and give back his story in return. . . . Just as we want to know more about foreign countries with whom it will be increasingly necessary to co-operate, so we assume that our friends there want to know more about us, since understanding is the only basis of true co-operation." And that's where we think a garden comes in.

ELECTION YEAR

Let's have a column in this magazine devoted to our favorite trees. Send them in your nomination for the handsomest specimen in town; where it is, the time of year it is loveliest, and why. We can look up the story behind that particular variety and give it to you, along with the location, so that it can be made an objective for the walks that should take the place of our Sunday rides. By postcard or telephone, Do it Now, so our next issue may carry a long list of fine trees all over town as an incentive for our tours. A.M.C.

NATIONAL FLOWERS

In the United States there is no official "national" flower, although the Goldenrod is beginning to be generally accepted as such. It is particularly appropriate as a national flower because it is said to be found in every state and its scientific name, "Solidago," means "to make whole" or "to join."

The following have also been suggested as the national flowers for the United States: Trailing Arbutus, Mountain Laurel, Columbine, Flowering Dogwood, and Rose.

Unofficially, the "national" flowers of other lands are:

Australia—Wattle (Acacia).
Brazil—Cattleya Orchid.
Canada—Sugar Maple.
Chile—Chilean Bellflower (Lapageria)
China—Narcissus.
Denmark—Clover.
Egypt—Egyptian Lotus.
England—Rose.
France—Fleur-de-lis (Iris).
Germany—Cornflower.
Greece—Violet.
Hawaii—Lehua.
India—Lotus.
Ireland—Shamrock.
Japan—Chrysanthemum.
Lithuania—Common Rue (Ruta graveolens)
Mexico—Nopal Cactus (Prickly Pear).
Netherlands—Tulip.
Newfoundland—Pitcher Plant.
Norway—Culluna vulgaris.
Russia—Sunflower.
Scotland—Scotch Thistle (Onopordum acanthium).
Spain—Pomegranate.
Sweden—Twinflower.

—From Paul Frese,
Ed. Flower Grower.

OLIVE

A flourishing young olive tree some 15 feet high will furnish good sized olives of sufficient quantity to fill a gallon can. It seems strange that the fruit of this tree—the emblem of peace—should bear such bitter sour fruit; only by drying them in the sun are they made at all palatable—although, of course, the unwholesome method commonly used of steeping them in lye, takes away more fully the bitter flavor. Apparently the food value of the tree lies chiefly in the oil which is extracted from the berries and this is the way the Spanish and Italians use it in their diet—rarely, if ever, eating the berries; some dietitians, however, claim that the bitter taste of the olive has a medicinal value and that any treatment which eradicates this flavor is ill advised. Rare cases have been known, however, in which some one olive tree in a grove of them, possessed berries which were free from any disagreeable characteristic of the kind mentioned; perhaps another Burbank will eventually discover some means of producing olive trees which bear fruit pleasant, or, at least, not unpleasant to the taste and, withal, healthful as a food.—V. M. S.

A BLOSSOM AND A BUD

The Chinese Everlasting Lily, "Wan Nien Ching," produces a flower only once every 40 or 50 years, and the Chinese take it as a good omen when this happens. In China, the blossoming of the lily (Aglaonema modestum) is the occasion for a family celebration, because the good luck is sup-

HATTIE RUMBLESHUCKS

on composting

now, is vociferation at its best. But these days of shortages and priorities and ersatz materials for almost everything including the pups breakfast, give the subject a serious side. The good lady dotes on manure piles, of all things for the fine feminine touch, and corncobs as a garnish sets nostalgic streams in motion that ends up in tears . . . tears of wrathful indignation that fumes into caustic words at the garden waste on every hand —"lawn cuttin's that never oughta been catched anyway an' prunin's afillin' of the rubbish trucks with livin' gold more to the point than that's planted under Fort Knox. And if the garbage truck does't show up, what's to prevent breakin' the law an' puttin' it deep in the earth for good black humus." Only put it deep, it may be said, and water-in well. Better leave out all root peelings and uncooked vegetables because of nematodes they might be carrying.

After all, the benefits accruing to the gardener are measured not in dollars and cents, but in certain gratifications related to fruition and tranquility. There is a mind at ease. It "has used God's stocks, sticks and stones to reveal the beauty that never can be given 'til 's found." Think it over.

posed to extend to all aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Professor Kenneth E. Foster, of New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, boasts one full bloom and a bud on his Chinese Everlasting Lily, which he bought several years ago in New York's Chinatown. He has presented the plant to United China Relief, which takes this unusual blossoming as a sign of victory in 1942. Botanists say that only one in 10,000 of these lilies, also known as the "10,000-year plant" ever blooms.

A NEW MULCH

Now that German and Swedish peatmoss is only a memory and leafmould becoming another thing of the past, due to and along with rubber tires, anything that substitutes satisfactorily will be received with open arms.

Such a substitute is claimed in Sani-Soil, which is nothing more than the shreaded outer bark of redwood. This sounds direct and simple. It will be free of weed seeds . . . that we can readily see. It is slow to disintegrate like some of the peats, giving a fibrous texture as a soil amendment and good for either extreme of sand or clay (adobe). As a top-mulch it should be supreme for conserving moisture, slowing up weed growth and preventing splattering.

But what about that poisonous quality of redwood we were warned of when using sawdust as mulch; that plant growth-inhibiting quality found in the lumber in contact with the soil. Will it tend to hold the plant back or has the virus, or whatever it is, been lost during the long years of the weathering bark on the tree? Use and time will tell.

This might be used to bring up the question of live sawdust of redwood for crown ailments of plants, to be used much as tobacco dust. Would it be potent enough; would it be too harmful to the plants? What would the result be in the soil as bedfellow with the nematode? Someone may know. The redwood people should find out. They might have something.

R. S. H.

The name of the state of Florida comes from the Spanish meaning "covered with flowers."

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held in the Natural History museum, Balboa Park. Mr. S. H. Carse, the able and efficient chairman of the annual Fall and Spring Flower shows, had charge of the meeting. Mr. Carse, who is making a study of and growing dahlias, introduced the owner of the famous Rockleigh Dahlia Gardens of La Mesa, California — Mr. Herman Lodge—who for 18 years has been engaged in raising Dahlia plants for their seed. He has shipped his seed to many countries, including Australia, Brazil, San Salvador, England, and China. His dahlias are of every species, shade and size—one which is the largest in cultivation, commonly measuring 15 to 17 inches across. He can also boast of one of the finest collections of tubers in the United States.

With many select colored slides Mr. Lodge showed scenes from his Gardens—single and collective views of blooms of many types. He spoke of the formal and informal decorative, having ragged petals; cactus, the petals of which are folded from tip to end; semi-cactus with petals twisted half way; and rolled.

Many dahlia pests were mentioned by Mr. Lodge, and suggestions given for eradicating them. He said, "Every dahlia grower has losses and disappointments." When pests are greater in number he suggested burning plant and root or bulb—he has burned very valuable dahlias to be rid of pests.

The audience was given a pleasant surprise when Mr. Carse introduced Mr. Brown as a "refugee," recently from Hawaii. Mr. Brown, a principal of one of the schools, said "For five years our school has been growing dahlias from Mr. Lodge's seed. Although it is not a dahlia country, we have had very good success—but not good luck with tubers." He told of the celebration and program given every year on May Day, at which time was ended the "flower and garden contest." He was proud to mention that their flower garden was the most attractive and prize winning garden in Hawaii. Built upon four terraces, its presentation is very artisic and pleasing.

Mrs. Greer made mention of an invitation from the Pacific Beach people—with the Floral association—to unite in holding a meeting commemorative of Miss Kate O. Sessions and keep existent the beautiful Tipu tree from Brazil, of the renowned Kate O. Sessions Nursery. Persons attending are asked to bring a tree, shrub, or plant which came from Miss Sessions, or her nursery, for planting in the memorial plot.

A communication from Dr. Theodore A. Cockerel of the University of Colorado who has been the club's speaker at previous meetings, was read. Dr. Cockerel may visit here again at a near future date and give a memorial talk for Miss Sessions.

A notice was given by Mrs. Greer for the Chrysanthemum show—to be held in the Natural History museum —the dates tentatively set for about October 31st and November 1st—and requests all persons having Mums in their gardens to prepare now to make exhibits at the show.

Seeds of tigridia and poppies, donated by Mrs. Robert Morrison, were given all persons in attendance.

G. M. G.

MANETTIA

The editor asked me to do a squib on the manettia vine and sure enough three months later here I am promptly complying. But after all, I don't know why he's curious about the manettia vine—he's got it all written up in that latest book of his, with its pictures on the margins and its grand lists of plants and I hope to goodness those friends of mine I lent it to don't lose it. They should buy a copy, anyway. A book with page after page of plant suggestions of this garden-coocoo corner of the country should be on the same shelf with the cook-book, the telephone book and the dictionary. Yes, I'm puffing up the editor's book and he'd better print this or I'll get tough about it and I can get tough, too, having no inhibitions when my mind is taken up with a CAUSE.

To get on with manettia vine, I really do know what inspired the gentleman's request. He noticed that I'd nick-named it "candy corn

vine," which was no credit to me, by the way, except knowing a good thing when I heard it. Another girl had the "candy corn" inspiration and if this makes you hungry for those 5 & 10 confections which are so much easier to eat than real corn kernels, why I've no objection if you sneak Junior's bag full when he sets it down to look for his ball bat. He's undoubtedly sniped candy from you. Anyway and howsomever, the red and yellow oblong flowers on the manettia vine do make you think of candy corn and they are there all the time because this busy little vine blooms all the time provided it is protected from what might be a nip of frost in winter. It also likes a little shade particularly that popular "middle of the day" kind. I have named it the barbecue vine, too, because it does seem a good ornament for a likely niche near the barbecue (a little shade remember) and it doesn't get huge or anything troublesome—also the color is right for steaks and charcoals. The vine can be cut back for good reasons and it will bleed resentfully but will go on and grow again if you water and let it get over its sulk.—From Ada Perry,

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting of the Floral Association offered a timely discussion of the Iris family, by Mrs. Wendell Brant. The speaker, with happy informality, told of her natural preference for these garden favorites, ever since her childhood days, when they were the subject for her first sketches. Later, she said, she discovered that her mother almost named her "Iris." Remembering how the Iris section of our flower shows was never complete without Mrs. Brant's presence and envying her her ability to concentrate on one plant family instead of scattering her energies as so many of us do, we absorbed the following facts:

The Iris family goes back into history, being one of the first to be cultivated from the wild species, and is universally known as the emblem of France. California, with its dry summers and wet winters corresponds

(Continued on Page 9)

FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF A MASTER GARDENER

AUTUMN LAWN TROUBLES

Sod webworm injury and so-called brown patch, a fungus disease of lawn grasses, are the two most likely causes of the dying back of fall lawns and of the two, brown patch would seem to be more often at fault. Description and control of the two trouble are given below:

Sod webworm prefers bluegrass and bent grasses to other grasses, young lawn being preferred. The symptoms are a repeated dying back of the new grass shoots until finally irregular dark - brown spots appear. The rapidity with which these spots may appear and enlarge often leads the lawn owner to suppose that the damage has occurred practically overnight. One method of testing for the presence of worms, which feed on the greener parts of the crown, on the tender growing tips and on the grass blades themselves, is to flood portions of the lawn with a garden hose. After a submergence of 5 to 10 minutes considerable numbers of slender, greyish and black - spotted worms about ½ inch in length should crawl to the surface if webworms are responsible for the damage.

Three methods may be used to control these worms: (1) Lead arsenate, 5 pounds in 50 gallon of water applied with a sprinkling can at the rate of ½ gallon to the square yard. To increase adhesion to the grass and prolong the effectiveness of the insecticide, 2 pints of light-medium emulsive oil may be added with every 5 pounds of lead arsenate. (2) Dichloroethyl ether diluted 1 part to 400 parts of water (1/3 ounce to the gallon) and applied in a sprinkling can at the rate of 1 gallon to the square yard. Commercial products containing this chemical are available. (3) Pyrethrum extract (2%) diluted 1 part to 400 parts of water applied with a sprinkling can at the rate of 1 gallon to the square yard.

Any one of the three materials named above will do the work, but for a prolonged effect the lead arsenate with an emulsive oil for spreader, is preferred.

Brown patch is caused by a fungus which thrives best during periods of high humidity and protracted hot spells. The spots usually take the form of semi-circular areas of discolored turf presenting somewhat the appearance of oil stain. In the beginning they are straw-colored and later turn a dark brown. In size the spots first appear about 2 to 2½ inches in diameter and increase in size until they meet with other spots. Both blue grass and bent grass lawns are affected, but more particularly the latter, and lawns on heavy soils suffer more than those on lighter soils.

Several methods of control are available, as the use of various compounds of mercury and also dry Bordeaux powder. Common corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) dissolved in water at the rate of 1 to 1000 (1 tablet or 7.3 grains to a pint of water) and sprinkled over the affected area and adjacent edges is sometime used, as is Semesan, 1 ounce of the dry powder to 3 gallons of water and applied at the rate of 50 gallons to 1000 square feet of area.

Dry Bordeaux powder is usually preferred, however, partly due to its ease of application. Simply dust it liberally over affected areas and adjacent portions and follow with a good sprinkling.

GARDEN SOILS

This opens up a large field, one much too large to cover in detail here. In California, especially in the south perhaps, soils vary considerably even in the same general locality. They may be said to range from light, sandy types containing little or no humus (decayed vegetable matter) through the medium heavy loams to the heavy clays and adobes. They also vary very much with reference to their acid or alkaline re-action, the latter type predominating in the more arid regions of the south.

The best garden soil for the majority of flowering and other ornamental plants and shrubs is a good

loam. This is made up of a rather loose mixture of clay and sand, with considerable humus or decayed vegetable matter, such as leaves and roots of grasses and other plants. Such a soil warms up early in the spring, is spongy, retentive of moisture, well aerated and easily worked as compared with soils containing a large proportion of clay which early in the season are usually cold, wet, and poorly drained. Later in the season they become hard and are worked with difficulty. Since one cannot always start with the best soil for a garden, due to other considerations that sometime must prevail, what can be done to improve that which we already have?

Soils that are too light and sandy may be made heavier by adding clay, if available without too much cost, and thoroughly mixing. The addition of quantities of strawy manures from stables and chicken runs and incorporated thoroughly with the soil will work wonders. Heavy, cold clay or adobe soils, providing there is good drainage, can be rendered lighter and more friable by liberal applications of strawy manures and such other materials as sand, leaf-mold, peat, sawdust, shavings, old alfalfa hay, bean straw, etc. Lime or gypsum added to such soils also aid in opening them up and making them more friable and porous. By all means drainage must be secured, if in any way possible. Not all plants, of course, like the same soil and occasionally an adaptation to soil requirement of various plants may be made that will lessen the necessity of modifying them. Thus, roses like a much heavier soil than, for example, do pansies and violets.

To supply needed vegetable matter to the soil a compost pile may be prepared. Pile together in some out-of-the-way place old sod, weeds, lawn clippings, vegetable waste and refuse, the tops of various root plants, etc. Scatter a little gypsum over the pile occasionally and wet it down now and then to hasten decomposition. If it can be turned over at intervals it will decompose more evenly. When finally decomposed this humus can be incorporated with the soil, adding greatly to its fertility and improving its physical condition.

Occasionally it is advisable to add

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MANY GENERA OF THE PLANT KINGDOM ARE NAMED FOR MEN

By ETTA FLORENCE ADAIR

Camellia: for George Joseph Kamel, whose Latinized name was Camellus. It is from the Latinized name that the botanical name is taken, by changing the masculine ending to the feminine. Thus the logical and correct pronunciation of the genus name is *ka-mel' i-a.* Kamel was a Jesuit priest and traveler of the seventeenth century. He was the first to describe the plant Camellia japonica.

Wisteria: for Caspar Wistar (1761-1818), an American anatomist, professor of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. Nuttal named the genus, spelling it *Wisteria,* perhaps to bring it into harmony with English spelling generally. Later the spelling *Wistaria* was adopted. But the International Code requires botanists to keep to the original spelling, so it must remain *Wisteria.*

Dahlia: for Andreas Dahl (died 1789), a Swedish botanist, pupil of Linnaeus. In the surname *Dahl a* is like *a* in *art,* Anglicized, the name rhymes with *ale.*

Bougainvillaea, spelled also Bougainvillea and Buginvillea: Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811), French navigator and author.

Zinnia: for Johann Gottfried Zinn (1727-1759), professor of medicine at Goettingen.

Eugenia: for Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663-1736), patron of botany and floriculture. Being refused a commission in the army of his native land, France, he entered the service of Austria and became the scourge of the Turk.

Gardenia: for Doctor Alex Garden (1730-1791), an American botanist and physician of Charleston, South Carolina. He was born in Edinborough and was a vice-president of the Royal Society. In America he corresponded with Linnaeus, who named the genus in his honor.

Gaillardia: for M. Gaillard, an amateur French botanist.

Abelia: for Doctor Clarke Abel (1780-1826), a physician and author in China.

Eschscholtzia: for J. F. Eschscholtz (1793-1831), a German naturalist, professor of anatomy at the university at Dohpat, Russia. He was a member of the Kotzebue expedition that visited California and took back the California poppy, named in his honor *Eschscholtzia Californica.*

Begonia: for Michael Begon (1638-1710), a French promoter of Science.

Bignonia: for Jean Paul Bigon, librarian to Louis XIV.

Lobelia: for Matthias Lobel, a Fleming, botanist and author, physician to King James I of England.

Godetia: for C. H. Godet (1797-1879), a Swiss botanist.

Bouvardia: for Doctor Bouvard (1572-1658), director of the *Jardin des Plantes* at Paris.

Fuchsia: for Leonard Fuchs (1501-1565), German, professor of medicine and botanical author.

Poinsettia: for Joel Roberts Poinsett, United States minister to Mexico from 1825 to 1829.

Euphorbia: for Euphorbos, physician to the king of Mauretania.

Sequoia: for Sequoiah, Sequo Yah, a 'half blood' Cherokee Indian. He invented the alphabet, or syllabary, adopted by the tribe around 1820.

Lippia: for Doctor Auguste Lippi (1678-1703), a French physician and traveler in Abyssinia.

Magnolia: for Pierre Magnol (1639-1715), professor of medicine and botany at Montpellier, France.

Freesia: for Elias Magnus Fries (1794-1878), Swedish botanist and orator.

Forsythia: for William Forsyth (1737-1804), an English horticulturist.

Veronica: for Saint Veronica, she who is said to have given Jesus on the way to Calvary a handkerchief to wipe his brow.

Duranta: for Castor Durantes, who died about 1590, a botanist and physician in Rome.

Gerbera: for Traugott Gerber (died 1743), a German naturalist who traveled in Russia.

Kalmia: for Peter Kalm (1715-1799), Swedish botanist who traveled

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From the Notebook of A MASTER GARDENER

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lime to certain soils in order to improve their physical condition. It serves to open up heavy soils and also, on the contrary, to bind light, sandy soil. Soils that are acid, due to the decay of much organic matter, are often benefitted by the use of lime. Air-slaked lime or unburned ground limestone are the forms advised. Where no soil acidity is involved gypsum, a combination of sulphur and lime, may be substituted for lime.

NEMATODES

You cannot hope to kill out the entire nematode population of a soil, but you can reduce these pests to such an extent that at least one planting will not be much interfered with.

Carbon bisulphide is the chemical to use. Inject a small quantity, say 1½ to 2 ounces, into each 18 inches square of ground surface to be sterilized. Holes can be made with a pointed stick or prod not more than 4 or 5 inches deep and be immediately closed up after the carbon has been injected. Over each mound or hill place wet pieces of old carpet or sacks to hold the gas in. They can be removed after 24 to 48 hours and plantings can be made within a few days, or after all traces of the gas have disappeared. For best results the ground should be moderately moist, but not wet, when treated.

Following this, care should be used in irrigation and cultivating to see that no infested soil, outside of the treated zones, is pulled over the treated hills. Nematodes will work their way in sooner or later, but if you do a good job, it will be several months at least before they will cause much trouble again. If you do the work this fall, you can be quite sure of freedom from nematode injury until next summer, as these soil pests are normally not very active during the winter anyhow and if checked during the late summer or early fall would not get much of a start again until the following summer.

It should always be remembered that carbon bisulphide is inflammable and explosive and must be handled carefuly. One should not inhale the fumes deeply.

ROSES

The control of rust and mildew on roses can be briefly summarized. Both difficulties are fungous diseases, the spores or seed bodies of which are carried in the atmosphere. It is, therefore, necessary to maintain a protective covering on the leaves of growing rose plants.

Since sulphur is more specific for the control of rust than other types fungicides, it is recommended that you regularly dust or spray your rose plants with some form of sulphur. Again with rose rust it is important that the spores be killed before they germinate on the plants. The time to commence operations is mid-winter at pruning time.

The winter spores of rust are black pustules which appear on the old leaves. All such diseased leaves should be removed and destroyed. The dormant plants should then be sprayed with commercial liquid lime-sulphur 1 part, water 10 parts, repeating in ten days if heavy rains should occur in the interval. After new leaves form, the plants should be dusted regularly at weekly intervals with a fine dusting sulphur. The fineness should not be less than what is termed in the trade as 325 mesh sulphur. An even finer sulphur (such as gas-house sulphur) is preferable.

The same remedy is practiced for the control of mildew. The degree of effective control will depend almost altogether upon the thoroughness and regularity of treatment and heat which increases the degree of control.

FOR DRY SOILS

Among the trees, California Live Oak would take first place; but, of course, requires considerable room. For a rather dry location the Parkinsonias, natives of the Colorado desert, would do well. This plant bears a great mass of bright yellow flowers in the early summer. The California juniper is a native of the high desert mesas and under favorable conditions grows into a beautiful, small, pyramidal tree. The Incense Cedar is a native of the California mountains and is one of our finest evergreen trees. It grows up to 50 feet or more in height. There are also a number of native pines to choose from —the Coulter or Big Cone pine, the Monterey pine, and the very fine Torrey pine. No collection of native trees would be complete without the latter.

With reference to shrubs, first place would be given, probably to the wild lilacs of which there are a number. Chief of these is one known as *Ceanothus cyaneus,* which bears beautiful indigo-blue flowers in great profusion. This lilac originated in San Diego county near Lakeside, presumably. The California holly or Toyon is well known to every one and when well grown makes a fine shrub. There are also several varieties of Rhus, one known as the lemonade berry, and a second as laurel sumac. Then there is the rather beautiful wild cherry of two species, one known as *Prunus ilicifolia* and the second a *Prunus integrifolia* or Catalina cherry. This latter species when given good garden care makes a very fine plant indeed.

Perhaps the most beautiful of the native California flowering shrubs is the *Carpenteria.* It has large long leaves and single, white, exceedingly fragrant rose-like flowers, 3 inches across. The *Fremontia* must not be overlooked. The species known as *Fremontia mexicana* or Mexican flannel bush is a glorious sight when in full bloom. It grows up to 15 or 20 feet in height and bears a profusion of coppery, orange-yellow flowers, 2 to 3 inches across, in the early spring. It needs a sunny location and good drainage.

There are, of course, many more native shrubs that will bear investigation. If you will consult a reliable florist specializing in native plants you can secure full information concerning the type or plants most likely to succeed in your particular location.

POTTERY

Ohio has always been a leader in pottery production, its manufacture beginning before 1820 when James Bennett, an English potter, arrived in East Liverpool, O., and found the clay in Ohio hills satisfactory for Rockingham and yellowware. That pottery was and now is made on a large scale. More pottery, terra cotta and in color, should be used in the garden.

AUGUST MEETING

(Continued from Page 6)

to the climate of the Mediterranean, which is the natural habitat of the iris. The common varieties that grow so freely and bloom so often are Crimson King, the purple flag, and Kochii, the near-white kind. For San Diego, one will have better success with the zhizomes purchased from firms in the Southwest, which are accustomed to more warmth and dryness than those coming from the Northwest or East. The new and rare varieties are more expensive, as Fiesta and China Maid, but they are soon within reach of any purse because they increase rapidly.

The elementary principles of bearded, or German iris culture are to plant them in any soil that has good drainage, as they rot quickly if they stand in water. The soil should be well dug and enriched with bone meal or well ripened dairy fertilizer, which must never touch the zhizome. Plant close to the surface, just covering with soil. They may be fifteen to eighteen inches apart, but not mixed with other plants. Thin after three years.

For PRIZE-WINNING
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KEEP your roses free from pests with the "ORTHO" Rose Spray Kit. Kit contains enough EXTRAX Insect Spray and GREENOL Liquid Fungicide to make 12 full gals Combination Spray. For control of Aphis, Powdery Mildew, Beetles, Thrips, Rose Slugs and certain other rose pests. Easy to mix. Easy to apply. Directions with every kit.
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DO NOT REMOVE WICK
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Kill SNAILS and SLUGS
WITH THIS AMAZING BAIT
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BAIT
SLUGS SNAILS
"BUG-GETA" Bait

Iris varieties have definite personalities that become apparent with study. Those that Mrs. Brant recommends, from her past experience are, for blue:

San Gabriel, a very satisfactory tall, early blue.

J. J. Dean, good for a dark background.

Gottschauf, a good grower.

Sierra Blue, deep color; Early Mass, light blue.

Shining Waters, excellent blue.

In whites there is:

Purissima, tall, pure white; Easter Morn, an ivory.

Mount Cloud, white with cream tinge.

Plicata type, the white with colored veinings, are represented by San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Best yellows are:

Lady Paramount, Cascade and Alta California.

Red-browns are found in:

Indian Chief, China Boy and Cheerio.

A fine pink is Alta Rosa.

Mrs. Brant brought her talk to a close by touching on the other iris types, as Morea, the false iris from Africa. The Siberian and Japanese bulbous types do not prosper here, but the Dutch are very effective and successful. The English iris is fair. Of the Spurias, the Ochroleuca, a fibrous plant with tall white or white and yellow blooms, is very popular. There are also miniature iris and the swamp variety from Alabama. All of which can be better studied by joining the American Iris Society.

A. M. C.

BIRDS

Some of the birds that save millions in crops each year are still misjudged by the people.

The Baltimore oriole has been accused of damaging grapes and garden peas. But Department of Agriculture studies show that the oriole's food habits are largely beneficial. Caterpillars are its favorite fare, but it also eats quantities of plant and bark lice, ants, wasps, grasshoppers, spiders and weevils.

Farmers who tear swallows' nests from barn eaves are turning out their best friends. Swallows, catching their food on the wing, consume vast numbers of harmful flying insects especially during the nesting and moulting periods when they, like most other birds, eat little besides animal foods. Young birds in the nest often eat more insects than their parents. To encourage swallows, provide mud for nest mortar, a shelf to support the nests, and cut small entrance holes in barn gables. Barn and tree swallows will appreciate boxes placed high in the barn, while purple martins will make good use of houses on top of a pole in an open space.

Woodpeckers are often suspected of damaging trees by their drillings. Each hole drilled means that the bird has located the larva of a destructive wood-boring insect. Woodpeckers are among the most valuable forest conservationists. With their heavy bills they get insects that other birds cannot get.

Fruit raisers often look on robins as enemies because of the robin's appetite for cherries. Yet robins consume insects harmful to fruit crops throughout the year, and only during the flocking periods in June and July do they eat cultivated fruit to any extent. . As soon as the wild berries are ripe they will form the greater part of the food. One good way to keep robins out of the orchard is to plant mulberry trees nearby. Mulberries ripen at the same time as cherries and the birds prefer them to other fruits.

L.M.

PLANT GENERA

(Continued from Page 7)

in North America.

Billbergia: for J. G. Billberg, Swedish botanist, who wrote on the plants of Scandinavia in 1822.

Buddleia: for Adam Buddle (died 1715), an English botanist.

Romneya: for T. Romney Robinson, astronomer of Armagh, Ireland, who discovered the plant about 1845.

Salvinia: for Antonio Maria Salvini (1633-1729), an Italian scholar, professor in Florence, Italy.

Hardenbergia: For Franziska, Countess of Hardenberg, Germany.

A LIVE OAK GROVE

The Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) does not grow naturally on the coast proper. Close to the ocean it will mildew badly as the new foliage breaks.

The best specimens of this splendid, large, spreading tree will be found somewhat inland in the deep alluvial soils of stream valleys where moderate heat is also a desirable factor.